

Remarks

The above-referenced application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Office Action dated November 15, 2004. Claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 16, 17, 19 and 21-26 have been canceled. Claims 2, 3, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 18 and 20 have been amended. Accordingly, Claims 2-5, 7, 9, 11-15, 18 and 20 are currently pending in this application. No new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested, particularly in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In accordance with the Office Action, Applicants were required to affirm the election of the claims of Group 1 in compliance with a restriction requirement. Accordingly, Applicants have affirmed the election and canceled the claims of Group 2.

In accordance with the Office Action, Claims 1 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,539,531 to Miller et al. Claim 1 has been canceled, while Claim 13 has been amended to recite allowable features neither taught nor suggested by Miller et al.

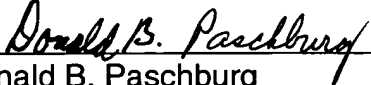
In accordance with the Office Action, Claim 11 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. Accordingly, Claim 11 has been written in independent

form.

Conclusion:

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claims 11 and 13 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated above. Since the dependent Claims 2-5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 15, 18 and 20 each depend from one of the above claims and necessarily include each of the elements and limitations thereof, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated, and for reciting additional patentable subject matter. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, reconsideration of the rejections and an early and favorable allowance of this case is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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